

Plot Metadata Directions

1. Complete all location information at the top of the sheet. Be sure to list UTM coordinates and other identifying features of the site. Most of the information should be self-explanatory except the following:

Population: Identify the population with which the habitat is associated. This definition also includes small populations. Population names are found in figure 3.

Home Range Name: Identify the home range area using a major drainage area or other distinguishing land feature (e.g., Little Lost River Home Range).

Land Cover Type: Identify the land cover type of the data. Use plant alliances or associations (Reid et al. 2002) for sagebrush or grassland communities; www.natureserve.org/explorer (International Classification of Ecological Communities) or other sampling strata used to describe the habitat (e.g., % sagebrush categories). Use the species symbol (table B-1) for dominant species in the overstory and understory (Examples: ARTRW8 (alliance level – Wyoming big sagebrush) or ARTRW8/FEID (association level – Wyoming big sagebrush/Idaho fescue)).

Ecological Site: Refer to soil maps and range site guides, and ecological site descriptions where available and record the appropriate ecological site. Use the species symbol for dominant species in the overstory and understory.

Associated Leks: List the two largest occupied leks to which the breeding habitat is associated. Use identification numbers or names that are used in the statewide database.

Area or Distance Sampled: Record the total area (indicating ha/ac) or distance for riparian areas (indicating km/mi) of the site type or land cover type sampled.

Site Info.:

Arid Site: Applies to sagebrush ecological sites generally in the 25-30 cm (10-12 in) precipitation zone. Wyoming big sagebrush is a common big sagebrush subspecies for this type of site.

Mesic Site: Applies to sagebrush ecological sites generally in a >30 cm (12 in) precipitation zone. Mountain big sagebrush is a common big sagebrush subspecies for this type of site.

Seasonal Habitat: List one or more of the following, as appropriate: lek, nesting/early brood-rearing, summer/late brood-rearing, or winter.

2. Take photographs of the study site. At least one photograph must be taken at each transect/evaluation area. Photos will prove invaluable in locating evaluation areas in subsequent years. They will also be of substantial utility in the office when preparing evaluation documents and documenting habitat condition.
 - a. Complete a photo card showing, at a minimum, the date, location, allotment, and transect number.
 - b. With the photo card near the zero end of the tape, take a general photo of the area, sighting down the tape from eye level, showing landmarks in the background, if possible. A cover board or meter stick should be in the picture for a frame of reference.
 - c. In a representative location along or near the tape, place the photo card near the base of a sagebrush plant, and take a tangential closeup photo from near ground level (2-3 ft) toward the shrub/ground interface, to document herbaceous conditions and cover. A cover board or meter stick should be in the picture for a frame of reference.
 - d. Optional: Take one or more other closeups or panoramic photos as needed. A photo showing sagebrush canopy cover percent may also be desirable, following completion of the line intercept.